

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCUSAFE
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS ANKARA 1301

ATHENS PLEASE PASS CLIFFORD MISSION

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR, US
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS TREATMENT OF CLIFFORD MISSION

REF: ANKARA 1043 (DTG 101428Z FEB 77)

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S MISSION SINCE START OF TRIP HAS CONTINUED TO SHOW SAME SUSPICION AND CONCERN EVIDENT IN ADVANCE COVERAGE (REFTEL). MOST PAPERS FEBRUARY 17 GAVE REASONABLY PROMINENT COVERAGE TO CLIFFORD'S PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, WITH HEADLINES OR SUBHEADS GENERALLY REFERRING EITHER TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATED HOPE THAT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE COULD BE BROUGHT TO
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CYPRUS OR TO HIS STATEMENT THAT SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S MISSION SHOULD LEAD TO STRENGTHENED U.S.-TURKISH AND U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS. HOWEVER, RIGHT-WING BAYRAK HEADED ITS STORY "THE USA'S CYPRUS INITIATIVE IS AWAITED WITH SUSPICION." LEFT-WING POLITIKA, UNDER THE KICKER "AS CARTER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CLIFFORD BEGINS HIS THREE-PART CONTACTS, PRESSURE ON TURKEY INTENSIFIES," PUT ITS STORY ON THE CLIFFORD MISSION

SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH AN EQUALLY PROMINENT STORY "AT THE TIME OF THE FAMOUS 'WARNING LETTER' CLIFFORD WAS JOHNSON'S SPECIAL ADVISOR" (REFERRING TO THE 1964 "JOHNSON LETTER" WHICH IS STILL A SORE POINT WITH THE TURKS.)

2. MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET HEADED ITS FEBRUARY 18 STORY "CLIFFORD'S COMING TO TURKEY BRINGS NO SOLUTION". QUOTING UNSPECIFIED TURKISH OFFICIALS, THE ARTICLE SAID THAT BEFORE SECRETARY CLIFFORD EVEN BEGAN HIS TRIP, DISCUSSIONS HAD ALREADY BEGUN BETWEEN THE CONCERNED SIDES, AND "AFTER THIS, THERE IS NOTHING MORE FOR AMERICA TO DO THAN TO AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS." HURRIYET, LEFTIST CUMHURIYET, AND SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN ALL REPORTED THAT IN VIENNA SECRETARY CLIFFORD STATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD GIVE AID TO TURKEY AND GREECE ONLY AFTER THEY HAD REACHED AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS.

3. FEBRUARY 18 MASS-CIRCULATION (RIGHTIST) TERCUMAN REPORTED THAT, PRIOR TO SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S DEPARTURE, HE WAS TOLD BY TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL THAT CYPRUS AND TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE COOPERATION MUST BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY IF PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE. THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE VIEWS EXPRESSED TO ESENBEL BY SECRETARY CLIFFORD, PARTICULARLY ON CYPRUS, "WERE IN THE NATURE OF A VEILED THREAT OF EMBARGO AND KEEPING THE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT (DCA) IN SUSPENSE."

4. TERCUMAN, IN A FEBRUARY 17 EDITORIAL, CALLED PRESIDENT CARTER'S WORDS AT THE OUTSET OF SECRETARY CLIFFORD'S MISSION UNCLASSIFIED

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A FAVORABLE SIGN "BUT ONLY TO A CERTAIN DEGREE." THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT "IF CLIFFORD'S VISIT...TURNS TO A FORM OF PRESSURE ON ANKARA OR THE CYPRIOT TURKISH COMMUNITY, THEN... NOT ONLY WILL WASHINGTON NOT OBTAIN ANY RESULTS, BUT IT WILL ALSO LEAD TO A HARSH REACTION IN TURKEY ON THE EVE OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND RELATIONS WILL BECOME WORSE THAN NOW." CUMHURIYET, COMMENTING FEBRUARY 17 ON THE DENKTASH-MAKARIOS-WALDHEIM TALKS, STATED THAT "THE ONLY DARK CLOUD ON THE HORIZON, IN THIS FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY THE SIDES CONCERNED, IS THE UNTIMELY AND, TO US, UNNECESSARY VISIT BY CARTER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CYPRUS CLIFFORD, WHO PREPARES TO FLY TO ATHENS, ANKARA, AND NICOSIA, AS IF TO PLACE A 'MADE IN USA' LABEL ON THE CYPRUS SOLUTION."

5. PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY BARIS, IN A FEBRUARY 16 EDITORIAL, ENDORSED DENKTASH'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CLIFFORD MISSION AS "UNTIMELY" AND STATED THAT THE VISIT "MAY MAKE AGREEMENT MORE DIFFICULT, INSTEAD OF EASIER" BY ENCOURAGING THE CYPRIOT GREEKS. IN A FEBRUARY 17 EDITORIAL,

THE SAME PAPER COMMENTED THAT HISTORICALLY AMERICA'S ATTITUDE HAS BEEN AGAINST TURKEY "BOTH WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS AND IN HER DISPUTE WITH GREECE." THE EDITORIAL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE DCA NOT BE RAITIFIED,SO THAT TURKEY COULD REEVALUATE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND REDIRECT HER DEFENSE STRATEGY; "THIS IS WHAT SHOULD BE TOLD TO CLARK CLIFFORD." THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES "CLOSE FRIENDSHIP CANNOT BE MAINTAINED WITH A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS STATED THAT CLOSE COOPERATION WILL BE MADE WITH A CONGRESS WHICH IS UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THE GREEK LOBBY."
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